

Message of Gov. Dennison.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate

and of the House of Representatives:

I welcome your return to your official labors, and congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of our State.

The United States Census of the past year, and the Report of the Commissioner of Statistics, furnish much interesting information relative to the growth of our State. To these sources, but chiefly to the latter, I have indebted for the following facts, which exhibit, in part, the gratifying progress of the State in its material development during the past ten years:

1850.	1860.
Population.	1,260,000
Increased per cent.	18.4

1850.	1860.
Improved lands.	8,551,498 acres
Unimproved lands.	12,310,154 acres
Value of improved lands.	\$2,300,000,000
Value of unimproved lands.	\$1,200,000,000

1850.	1860.
Average price of land.	\$19.90 per acre
Value of land.	\$1,200,000,000

1850.	1860.
Grain raised.	86,457,124 bushels
Wheat raised.	1,440,100 bushels
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in this world, and with our best desire to the people to come. It is a source of just pride to the people of this State that Ohio has no cause of self reproach on this account. The wise provision of her original law, imposing the duty upon the General Assembly of maintaining a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State, and the fidelity with which this obligation has been discharged, bear honorable witness of her zeal in behalf of popular education.

Our present school law was enacted in 1852. It is much more comprehensive and effective in its provisions than any preceding law in Ohio. Being radical in some of its features it is not surprising that it met with only opposition. It imposed what seemed to some an unrecusable taxation, and conferred authority upon Boards of Education which was objected to by many. But from the first a large majority of the people have approved the system, and since it has vindicated its value by its successful working little opposition is arrayed against it. Wherever it has been faithfully administered, it has accomplished a noble work for the people of the State.

For a full exhibit of the progress in education, under this system, I refer you to the report of the School Commissioner.

The receipts and expenditures for the school year ending August 31, 1859, were as follows, viz:

1859.	1860.
Balance on hand September 1, 1859.	\$302,700.37
Amount paid teachers.	\$2,400,000.00
Amount paid for school buildings.	\$1,000,000.00
Amount paid for school furniture.	\$1,000,000.00

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